

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ISRAELIS MOVE TO COUNTER OPPOSITION

IN THE FACE OF AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE MEDIA EFFORT BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE MOUNTING A CAMPAIGN TO SELL AN INTERIM AGREEMENT TO THE PUBLIC. THE GOVERNMENT EFFORT ALSO SEEMS TO BE AIMED AT ACQUAINTING THE PUBLIC WITH THE POSSIBLE NECESSITY OF TACKLING THE GOLAN PROBLEM AFTER AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT:

--CHAIRMAN OF THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE NAVON, APPEARING ON TELEVISION, PROVIDED THE ISRAELI PUBLIC WITH AN EXTENSIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN THE AGREEMENT.

--DEFENSE MINISTER PERES, IN DEFENDING THE MILITARY ADVANTAGES OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT AS WELL AS DESCRIBING
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THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAKE AN AGREEMENT POS-

SIBLE, ALSO NOTED THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARED FOR AND INTERESTED IN AN AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA.

HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT MARGALIT HAS SPECULATED THAT ISRAEL HAS MADE AN ORAL AGREEMENT WITH THE US TO ALLOW CERTAIN "COSMETIC CHANGES" IN THE GOLAN, NOT AS AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA BUT AS A UNILATERAL ISRAELI GESTURE TO REINFORCE THE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE OPPOSITION GROUPS HAVE THUS FAR SEIZED THE INITIATIVE IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC OPINION, THE GOI COUNTERCAMPAIGN IS NOW PICKING UP ITS OWN MOMENTUM. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TEL AVIV 5471; (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 5477 AND (UNCLASSIFIED) TEL AVIV 5489, 8/20.)

2. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL

BOTH SOARES AND ROSA, AN ORIGINAL SIGNER OF THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT, HAVE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE ANTUNES GROUP AND COPCON COMMANDER CARVALHO ON A NEW JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND ON THE NECESSITY FOR REPLACING GONCALVES. IN ADDITION:

--THE INEFFECTIVE INTERSINDICAL WORK STOPPAGE HAS EMPHASIZED THE INCREASING DIVISION OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT ALONG POLITICAL LINES.

--ANTI-LEFT VIOLENCE HAS AGAIN FLARED UP IN THE AZORES CAUSING THE MILITARY GOVERNOR TO FLY SEVERAL COMMUNIST LEADERS TO LISBON PENDING STABILIZATION OF THE SITUATION.

ROSA HAS ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF US AND EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC APPROACHES TO THE PRESIDENT AND BELIEVES THESE WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN PERSUADING HIM TO REPLACE THE PRIME MINISTER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE COMMUNISTS FIND THEMSELVES MORE AND MORE IN A POSITION OF REACTING TO EVENTS. ALTHOUGH RECENT EFFORTS TO RECAPTURE THE INITIATIVE HAVE FIZZLED, IT IS PRE-SECRET

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MATURE TO COUNT THE COMMUNISTS OUT. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 4742, 4736; (SECRET) LISBON 4731 (EXDIS), 8/20.)

3. USSR: PRAVDA CHARGES MASSIVE INTERVENTION IN PORTUGAL

AN AUTHORITATIVE "OBSERVER" ARTICLE IN PRAVDA HAS HURLED A BROADLY FOCUSED ACCUSATION AGAINST THE WEST FOR INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE ARTICLE CHARGES THE EC

WITH "OUTRIGHT BLACKMAIL" AND LINKS THE US WITH SEPARATIST GROUPS IN THE AZORES. IN ADDITION, THE ARTICLE:

--ATTACKS THE SOCIALIST PARTY FOR FAILING TO LIVE UP TO PRE-ELECTORAL BARGAINING, EXPLOITING THE POPULARITY OF SOCIALIST SLOGANS IN BAD FAITH, AND ABETTING THE FORCES OF REACTION;

--CALLS FOR "INTERNATIONAL MASS SOLIDARITY" IN SUPPORT OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND UNITY OF THE AFM, COMMUNISTS, AND ALL LEFT PROGRESSIVES IN PORTUGAL.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE AUTHORITATIVE CHARACTER OF THE ARTICLE, ITS EMPHASIS ON OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, AND THE FINAL PLEA FOR UNITY MAY BE SIGNS OF INCREASING SOVIET CONCERN OVER THE DETERIORATION OF THE PCP'S SITUATION. THE SOVIETS MAY BE PREPARING AN EXPLANATION FOR A COLLAPSE, WITH THE SOCIALISTS AND THE WEST AS HEAVIES BUT WITH SOME BLAME FOR THE PCP AS WELL. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 11772, 8/19.)

4. ANGOLA: MPLA SUSPECTS THE US IS SUPPLYING FNLA

CHIEF OF INFORMATION SERVICES ALMEIDA TOLD CONSUL GENERAL KILLORAN THE MPLA IS CONVINCED THE US IS SUPPLYING THE FNLA THROUGH ZAIRE. THE MPLA CLAIMS:

--PRESIDENT MOBUTU DOES NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO PROVIDE FNLA WITH THE QUANTITY OF ASSISTANCE FNLA IS RECEIVING.

--EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HAVE TOLD THE MPLA OF AN AIR SUPPLY BRIDGE FROM GERMANY TO ZAIRE AND THENCE TO ANGOLA.

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THE MPLA ALSO FINDS IT "EXCEEDINGLY STRANGE" THAT THE US AND EUROPEAN PRESS ARE SO UNIFORM IN THEIR PORTRAYAL OF THE MPLA AS MARXIST ORIENTED. ALMEIDA ADDED THAT NOW THAT THE US IS SUPPLYING THE FNLA, NO ONE SHOULD COMPLAIN ABOUT SOVIET AID TO THE MPLA. (CONFIDENTIAL) LUANDA 1200, 8/20.)

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